

Virginia Community HIV Planning Group
Four Points at Sheraton Hotel, 9901 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA
Meeting Summary
April 12, 2018

Members Present: Tim Agar, Sylvester Askins, Rashaad Banks, Roy Berkowitz, Gennaro Brooks, Jerome Cuffee (Community Co-Chair), Colin Dwyer, Doug Fogal, Beverly Franklin, Earl Hamlet, John Humphries, Bobby Jones, Russell Jones, Cristina Kincaid, Marquis Mapp, Gia Martinez, Eric Mayes, Diane Oehl, Victor Claros Outlaw, Darryl Payne, Bryan Price, Robert Rodney, Anthony Seymore, Nechelle Terrell, Joyce Turner, Stacie Vecchietti, Robyn Wilson

Absent: Reed Bohn (represented), Shawn Buckner, Daisy Diaz, Pierre Diaz, Elaine Martin, Stanley Taylor

Others present: Jonathan Albright, Marquetta Alston, Kathleen Carter, Amanda Saia, Bruce Taylor (represented Elaine Martin), and Linda Whiteley of the Virginia Department of Health; Dr. Kristina Hood (guest of Bryan Price); Cynthia Burwell of Norfolk State University (speaker); David Tyson (guest of Robyn Wilson); Kristin Vamenta (represented Reed Bohn); Amira Turner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (guest of Diane Oehl)

Membership

- Resignations – Chris Widner
- Amanda announced that her last day at VDH is next Wednesday; she has taken a position in the private sector.

Old and New Business

- Renate thanked members for filling out the meeting evaluation surveys.
- Bylaws Committee will meet before the next meeting – Roy and Jerome are members, and we need two more members. Renate asked members to see her or send an email if they are interested in serving on the committee.
- Minutes of the February 16 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Prevention Update – Bruce Taylor

- PrEP and Grindr apps for requesting home test kits
- PrEP – VDH purchased enough Truvada to last through July. An agreement with Planned Parenthood is close to being signed.
- Comprehensive Harm Reduction – Bruce reported that the first site in the state starts May 1 in Wise County. He has a site visit next week at Lenowisco Health District with Dr. Cantrell, and he indicated that Richmond and Norfolk are close to coming onboard. The protocols have been changed to add all of northern Virginia, parts of southwest Virginia, and other counties. Areas of higher populations had been excluded; the new protocols will bring in sites like Virginia Beach.
- Bruce's former Planner position has been posted and will advertise soon.

Care Update – Jonathan Albright

- PrEP Ambassador training was held in Eastern for 20 HIV-positive Ryan White (RW) consumers. HIV Care Services wants to expand the effort statewide. REVIVE training was conducted by Adyam Redae, and Dr. Webster provided clinical PrEP education. Kaiser Family Foundation (Daisy and Trina) presented on the social media campaign, and participants learned how to advocate peers in their social networks.

- QMAC training in February – Dr. Susan LaVoie and Juan Pierce were elected as co-chairs for the coming year, next meeting is in May.
- HIV Care Services is carefully watching the General Assembly discussion concerning Medicaid expansion. If Virginia expands Medicaid, it would require a new service delivery model for ADAP since approximately 62% of current ADAP clients would be eligible for Medicaid. It would have significant impact on the RW program, affecting the level and amount of funding the program could provide to support new and expanded services and other state programs and initiatives that benefit from rebates. For example, rebates cover activities that enable state funding to cover PrEP and other STD services such as disease intervention specialist (DIS) activities.
- Kimberly Scott will present on Virginia’s integrated plan at the HealthHIV conference on April 22, 2018. Currently, there are 130 people registered.
- VDH will again be submitting a core services waiver request to HRSA. Most of the ADAP services that help us meet the 75% core services waiver requirement are paid with rebates, which have to be spent first before the RW grant. If the program does not submit (and is granted) a core waiver request, the program may have to scale back some services to assure compliance to the legislative requirement that RW Part B programs spend 75% of funds on core medical services.
- Staff changes in the RW program: Jermaine Connor resigned her position as the HIV grants manager. Gloria Robinson is the new Assistant Director for HIV Services. Jonathan Albright is the new Quality Management Specialist who will work with Safere Diawara, VDH’s Quality Management Coordinator.

TGA Update – Beverly Franklin

Planning Council - Pierre resigned his co-chair position last month; a special election will be held.

EMA Update – Tim Agar

- Planning Council has officially disbanded; the last meeting was in February. The new DC Regional Commission on Health and HIV is in its final planning stages. When members are vetted and approved, the first meeting will be announced.
- Care and prevention will be merged into an integrative process, with RW guidelines still in place. Renate Nnoko and Doug Fogal are in the process of being vetted, so the commission will have CHPG representation.

Northern – Neshelle Terrell, Bobby Jones

- Alexandria Health Department has been awarded the “Getting to Zero” grant. The goal is to increase testing. At neighborhood health centers, everyone will be offered an HIV test. Victor is now a DIS at Alexandria Health Department and is involved with the project.
- Annual Family Camp April 20-22; clients can bring their kids

Southwest – Colin Dwyer

- Centra is no longer a Ryan White provider, effective March 31. It will be providing HIV specialty care to Danville clients until April 30.
- Eric – PrEP team at VDH working with a private provider in Lynchburg.

Northwest – Bryan Price, Bruce Taylor

- UVA and VCU working together – Dr. Kristina Hook starting a primary prevention program in rural areas for African American women; will use on-line evidence-based interventions and home test kits.
- Bruce – focus groups will be held this coming weekend in Charlottesville/Albemarle area for people who inject.

Eastern – Robyn Wilson, Bruce Taylor

- Bridges Collaborative meeting on April 18
- Collaborating with all CBOs on April 18 for National HIV & Transgender Testing Day
- Bruce – EVMS Hopes Clinic – medical students working in the community are interested in including syringe services in Portsmouth, one night a week, collaborating with Portsmouth HD.

Central – Cristina Kincaid, Rob Rodney

- Health Brigade - Groups started for recently incarcerated and HIV-positive women who are Ryan White Part B clients.
- Case Management summit held – core was motivational interview training – throughout the summer will be visiting each region and do two trainings; next year's summit will be held March 8-9 in Roanoke.

How to become a Trauma Informed Agency – Best Practices from Inova - Rashaad Banks, Inova

Rashaad talked about two different kinds of trauma – individual and organizational – and how trauma changes the brain and the different ways people respond to trauma. He described the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study done by Kaiser Permanente and CDC, and the importance of trauma-informed care. Provider's responsibility: sensitivity to how clients are served, based on the understanding that many clients have suffered traumatic experiences. It acknowledges the impact of trauma and violence, and allows clients and staff to feel safe and empowered. The goal is not to re-traumatize and trigger. Rashaad distributed the trauma-informed agency assessment that was used at Inova Juniper, and looked at where the agency is now and how it wants to move forward (sees if staff are aware of their agency's de-escalation strategy, relationship between substance abuse and trauma, what's involved in the intake process, how the team debriefs after a crisis, etc.) He talked about how agencies can build a trauma-informed environment by encouraging emotional intelligence, a consistent routine (and if changes, let the clients know ahead of time so they can prepare) and safety check-ins (checking in to see how staff and clients are feeling). He listed trauma-specific interventions; the list is on the SAMSA website.

Discussion on training/conference for heterosexual men living with HIV - Marquetta Alston, VDH

Marquetta is the lead services and training coordinator at VDH. She talked about the conference that she puts together every year for HIV-positive women and women of unknown status. She was asked by Elaine to present because there was interest from some CHPG members to have a conference for HIV-positive heterosexual men. Her goal today is to get ideas from members to see what agenda items to include and what the goals of the conference should be.

Working Lunch Topic: *How ready is your agency in becoming trauma informed? What contributions can you make in helping your organization become trauma informed?*

Project CHOICE - Choosing Healthy Options in Challenging Environments: iBook – Cynthia Burwell, Norfolk State University (NSU)

NSU used a grant through the National Library of Medicine to create an iBook about HIV/AIDS, a resource currently used nationwide for Apple products, but will also be available for Android products. It is updated continuously and can be found on the Bridges 757.com website. Ms. Burwell showed a video clip describing the 11 chapters covering risk factors, testing, prevention, resources, and more. There are videos in each chapter with topics related to that chapter.

Demonstration on how to take an appropriate sexual history - Linda Whiteley, VDH

Goal: Sensitive, caring and effective way of taking a sexual history. Ms. Whitely explained why it is important to take an effective sexual history, and the organizational and client barriers that can make it difficult in obtaining one.

Discussion about workgroups (feedback and the way forward) - Open discussion

Workgroups gave an overview of what they have been working on and future goals. Renate asked for suggestions to improve, and requested a work plan for the rest of the year from each group. June is a workgroup meeting.

Meeting Wrap-Up - Jerome Cuffee/Bruce Taylor

- Applications for membership will be reviewed in August: Tim, Roy, Stanley, and Diane are coming off the CHPG in August.
- June agenda items: Tim requested an update of medications added to the Formulary, have the meds been effective, side effects, etc. Victor requested a presentation on U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable) as a strategy to prevent transmission of HIV and combat stigma.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.